

Site Visits



Site Locations

The Project Team visited 20 constructed wetlands permitted to treat municipal wastewater. A site data sheet was completed for each of these sites.

Biologists and Engineers documented treatment and habitat values for each site.

The Project Team also visited 8 miscellaneous wetlands used for stormwater treatment, educational purposes, and on-site residential wastewater treatment. A commentary is provided for these sites.

General Approach

Sites identified by the Task Force members and project team to fit project criteria were visited during the summer and early fall of 2000. Project inventory consisted of collecting available data and observing site conditions on the date visited.

Each wetland visited was evaluated with the same criteria. Site Data Sheets (SDS's), as discussed in Chapter 5, served as checklists to ensure each subject was covered, as well as a data log to record field notes. A team of at least one engineer and one biologist evaluated each site.

Engineering Analysis

Team engineers catalogued the engineering related design components. Operators and design engineers were interviewed to gather site specific data.

Biological Perspective

Project biologist used the Montana Method, as discussed in Chapter 4, to evaluate the wetland. This method develops a score for each wetland based on its value to the natural ecosystem.

Overall Site Comments

The primary function of each treatment wetland was to provide sufficient removal of pollutants from the wastewater to meet discharge permit requirements. The bottom line for each site was 'did it meet its discharge permit requirements?' From an engineering perspective, the wetland was determined to be successful if it was able to consistently meet permit limitations.

Biologists determined the level to which the wetland functioned as an environmental element by using the Montana Method to rank each site. A table is provided for each site with scores allocated for each assessment category. An overall score was compiled for each site.

Site Visits

A write-up is provided for each site visited. A description of the facility and details of the engineering and biological evaluations are discussed.